

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8052

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 3928

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3718

1. POLOFF MET WITH VIRGILIO GALVEZ, ADVISOR TO FONMIN, ON SEPTEMBER 19. GALVEZ STATED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO FONMIN BATRES IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO MEETING ABOUT LATEST STAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. GALVEZ SAID THAT BATRES HAD SPOKEN TO FONMIN BORGONOVO BY TELEPHONE AND THAT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN REACHED IN REGARD TO ACCEPTING A MEDIATOR. HE STATED THAT BATRES AND BORGONOVO WOULD MEET ON SEPTEMBER 23 IN NEW YORK DURING UNGA TO DISCUSS METHOD OF SELECTING MEDIATOR.

3. HE SAID THAT BORGONOVO HAD INSISTED THAT AGREEMENT ON METHOD TO SELECT MEDIATOR BE SUBMITTED TO INTERNAL RATIFICATION IN EACH COUNTRY. GALVEZ SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO DIFFICULTY IN HAVING THE HONDURAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVE THE PROCEDURE. HE QUESTIONED, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE SALVADORAN CONGRESS MIGHT NOT UTILIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE THE ENTIRE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

4. HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF NAMES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS AS POSSIBLE MEDIATORS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SELECTION OF ONE, EVEN IF AGREED TO BY BOTH COUNTRIES,

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MIGHT CAUSE THE INTERNAL OPPOSITION IN EACH COUNTRY TO CLAIM

THAT THE MEDIATOR IS BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE OTHER. GALVEZ SAID THAT BATRES WOULD THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT EACH COUNTRY SELECT TWO OR THREE POSSIBLE MEDIATORS AGREEABLE TO EACH FONMIN AND THAT THE NAME OF THE MEDIATOR BE SELECTED FROM THE GROUP BY A THIRD PARTY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MEDIATORS WOULD HAVE TO BE MEN OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION BUT NOT NECESSARILY JURISTS. HE REMARKED THAT THE THIRD PARTY WOULD SELECT THE MEDIATOR "BLINDFOLDED," PRESUMABLY BY "PICKING THE NAME FROM A JAR."

5. GALVEZ COMMENTED THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES AIDED BY LA PRENSA AND LA NOTICIA SEEMED TO BE PREPARING A STRATEGY BASED UPON ATTACKING THE GOVERNMENT IF ANY AGREEMENT IS EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATED. HE DEPLORED SUCH A MOVE AND EXPRESSED HIS DISGUST THAT "THE POLITICIANS" WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO BENEFIT THEMSELVES AT THE COST OF HARMING THE NATION. HE PREDICTED THAT THE GOH WOULD RATIFY ANY AGREEMENT IF IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST EVEN IF IT RUNS THE RISK OF CONTINUED HARSH CRITICISM.
SANCHEZ

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